TO THE
Right Honourable, the Commons of ENGLAND assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The humble Petition of divers well-affected Citizens.

SHEWETH,

THat as the oppressions of this Nation, in times fore-going this Parliament, were so numerous and burthensome, as will never be forgotten; so were the hopes of our deliverance by this Parliament, exceeding great and full of confidence, which as they were strengthend by many Acts of Yours in the beginning, especially towards consciencious people, without respect unto their judgments or opinions; So did the gratitude of well-minded people exceed all president or example, sparing neither estates, limbes, liberties, or lives, to make good the authority of this Honourable House, as the foundation and root of all just freedome.

And although we many times observed to our griefe, some proceedings holding resemblance rather with our former bondage, then with that just freedome we expected: yet did we impute the same to the troublesomnesse of the times of warre, patiently and silently passing them over, as undoubtedly hoping a perfect remedy so soon as the warres were ended: but perceiving our expectations altogether frustrate, we conceived our selves bound in conscience, and in duty to God, to set before you the generall grievances of the Common-wealth, and the earnest desires of ingenuous well-minded people, and for that end did ingage in promoting the Petition in question, in the usuall and approved way of gathering subscriptions, with full intention to present the same to this Honourable House, so soone as it should be in readinesse: but as it appeareth, a Copy thereof was unduly obtained, and tendred to this Honourable House, under the notion of a dangerous and seditious Paper: Whereupon this House was pleased to order the Petition to the Committee, whereof Col. *Lee* is Chairman; and Mr. *Lambe*, at whose House it was said to bee found, to be there examined concerning the same.

Whereupon your Petitioners conceived it their duty to own and avouch the said Petition, and for that end, in a peaceable manner attended that Committee with this humble Certificate hereunto annexed, to be offered to their wisdomes as opportunity should be ministred: but through some small miscarriage of some few persons (for which your Petitioners were much grieved) your Committee took so suddain and high displeasure, as to command your Petitioners to withdraw, threatning to remove them with a guard, before they had time to turn themselves.

Whereupon your Petitioners caused the Certificate to be publikely read in the Court of Requests, to take the sence and allowance of many persons, who had not before seen the same, with intent still to present it; which though endeavoured to the utmost, was absolutely refused to bee received. But to our astonishment, occasion was taken against our friend that read the same, so farre, as that he stands a prisoner to that Committee, and much harsh language, with threatnings and provocations issued from some of the Committee, towards some other of our friends purposely (as we verily beleeve) to get some advantage, to represent us odious to this Honourable House, whose persons and authority hath been as deare in our esteeme as our very lives. And therefore, wee have just cause to complaine to this Honourable House,

1. Of unjust usage from those that endeavoured to interrupt the gathering of hands in a peaceable way, or to possesse this Honourable House with evill suggestions concerning the intention and purpose of the said Petition.

2. Of hard measure from your Committee in the particulars fore-mentioned, contrary to what we have deserved, or should have found in former times.

3. Nevertheless, our liberties, to promote Petitions to this Honourable House, is so essentiall to our freedome, (our condition, without the same being absolute slavery) and our hope of justice from this Honourable House, is so essentiall to our freedome, our condition, without the same being absolute slavery: And our hope of justice from this Honourable House, so great in protecting us therein, that we are not discouraged by what hath passed; but in confidence thereof, doe humbly entreat,

First, *That ye will be pleased to declare our freedome, to promote, and your readinesse to receive the said Petition, which we cannot but still look upon, as tending to the generall good of this Nation.*

Secondly, *That our friends may be inlarged, and that Ye will discountenance the officiousnesse of such over-busie informers, as have disturbed the just progresse of that Petition.*

We are not ignorant, that we have been, and are like to be represented unto you, as Heretickes, Schismatickes, Sectaries, seditious persons, and Enemies to Civill-government, and the like: but our said Petition is sufficient to stop the mouthes of such Calumniators, and declare us to be not only sollicitors for our own particulars, but for the generall good of the Common-wealth, and will minister a just occasion to suspect the designes of those, that so frequently asperse us, though their pretences be never so specious. And we trust your wisdoms will timeously discover and prevent any evill intended against us.

And whereas Major *Tuledab* stands committed by Order of this Honourable House, for some conceived misbehaviour towards some Members of your said Committee; wee humbly intreat, that he may be forthwith called to your Barre, and be permitted to answer for himself and that witnesses also may be heard on his behalfe, that so this Honourable House may be rightly and fully informed concerning his cause and demeanour of those Members, the suddain imprisonment of our friends being very grievous unto us. *And your Petitioners shall pray.*

To the Honourable Committee of Parliament, sitting in the Queenes Court at Westminster, Colonell Lee *being Chaire-man.*

The humble Certificate of divers persons interessed in, and avouching the Petition lately referred to this Committee by the Right Honourable House of Commons.

Humbly certifying;

THat the Petition (entituled, *The humble Petition of many thousands, earnestly desiring the glory of God, the freedome of the Common-wealth, and the peace of all men, and directed to the Right Honourable, and supreame authority of this Nation, the Commons assembled in Parliament*) *is no scandalous or seditious Paper* (as hath been unjustly suggested) *but a reall Petition, subscribed, and to be subscribed, by none but constant cordiall friends to Parliament and Common-wealth, and to be presented to that Honourable House with all possible speed, as an especiall meanes, to procure the universall good of this long inthralled, and distracted Nation; And we trust this Honourable Committee will in no measure dishearten the people from presenting their humble considerations, Reasons, and Petitions, to those whom they have chosen* (there being no other due and legall way wherein those that are aggrieved can find redresse) *but that rather ye will be pleased to give all incouragement therein: In assured hope whereof, we shall pray.*

Declar. 2. Nov. pag. 720.